

SMA Sustainability Mission Statement



**Dear reader,**

Since SMA was founded in 1981, our goal has been to develop solutions for the use of renewable energy. The conviction that a sustainable energy supply is both possible and necessary has always been a major driver of innovation at SMA. By focusing on system technology for PV plants, we aim to create a solar energy future as the benchmark of our entrepreneurial initiatives. Therefore, we regard sustainability not as peripheral to our business strategy, but as its very core.

It takes passion to accomplish great things. Innovations arise only where creativity can flourish and where trial and error are allowed. A company's long-term success depends on the commitment of its employees. Our corporate culture at SMA underpins this approach and thrives on evolution.

To attain lasting success, we must meet and exceed our customers' expectations and engage our business partners in tackling our challenges. Our business principles lay the foundation for this approach. Transparent and open communication with our stakeholders is the prerequisite for credibility and the driver of continuous improvements.

Not only do we consider ourselves largely responsible for the development of North Hesse, we also work nationally and internationally to advance the future of solar energy.

Therefore, it makes sense for us to formulate our sustainability standards in an explicit mission statement. This statement confirms our company's commitment to sustainability across the board. With this pledge, we set the standard for all our endeavors.



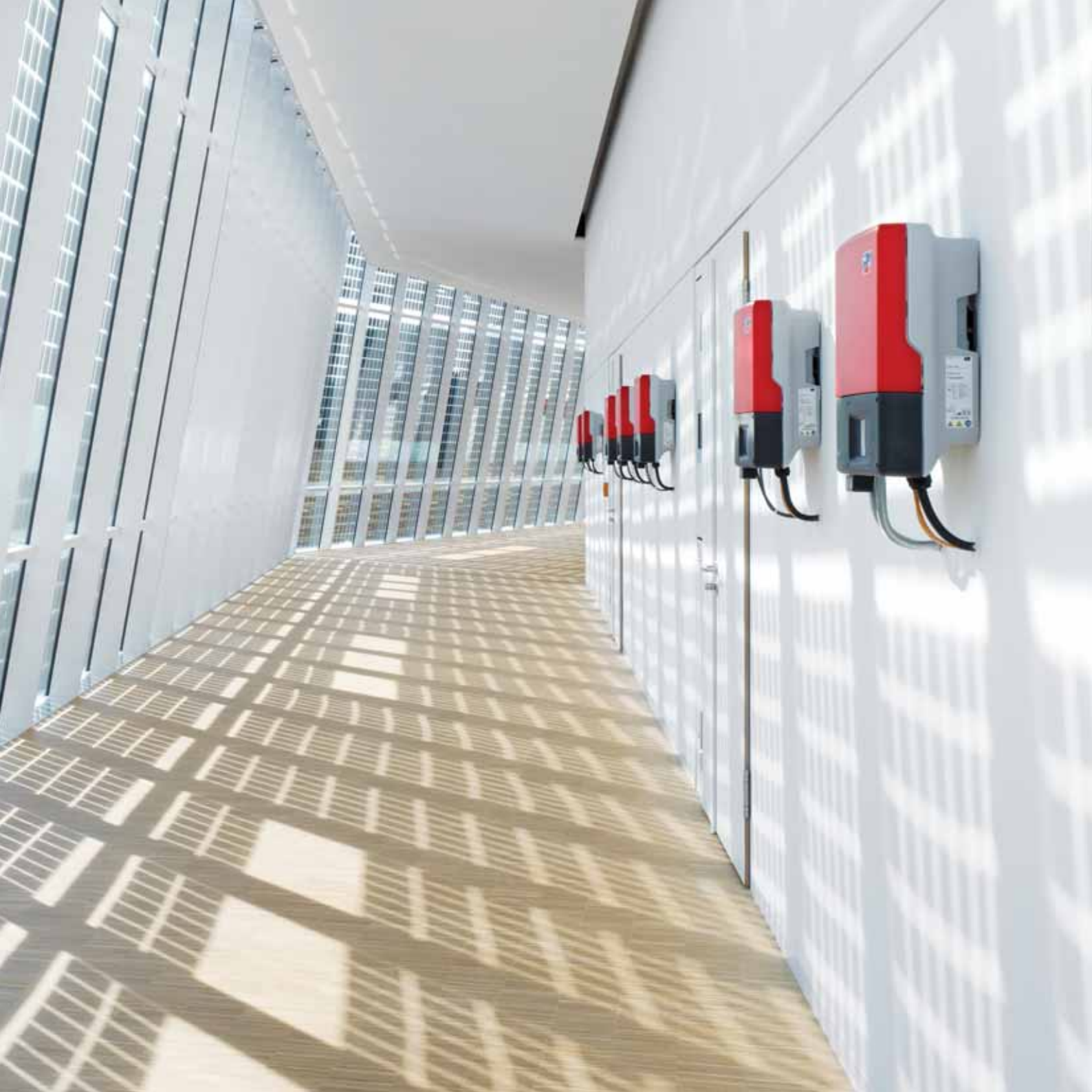
Jürgen Dolle  
Chief Human Resources Officer



# **SMA Sustainability Mission Statement**

Sustainable development refers to a development path characterized by using resources without jeopardizing their essence and compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs. In addition, sustainability now also refers to a social development path in which environmental needs and social and economic development opportunities are promoted.

The SMA sustainability mission statement was designed to lay a foundation that allows us to consistently base our actions on sustainability principles. It describes the principles and is in line with SMA's corporate sustainability policy. The SMA sustainability mission statement supports the continuous development of a sustainable business strategy and establishes the requirements for monitoring.



# Vision and Mission on Sustainability

**Vision:** SMA is a pioneer in sustainable business strategies. Through our actions we ensure that we successfully develop the company over the long-term as well as the future of our employees. We assume responsibility for social development that contributes to greater social justice and preserving a livable environment. With our products, we establish the conditions for economic development that make us independent from limited energy resources.

**Mission:** We want to firmly anchor sustainability concepts into our daily working lives thus turning our vision into reality. To do this, we have to develop objectives, strategies and key figures for all fields of activity relevant to sustainability and integrate them into an overall concept. These will be examined regularly and disclosed in a sustainability report. Within this context, all decisions made must take into consideration economic, environmental and social aspects.





# Core Topics for Sustainable Development

**1 | Sustainable Economics**

**2 | Innovative Products for a Sustainable Energy Supply**

**3 | Production without Waste**

**4 | Socially and Environmentally Responsible Supply Chain**

**5 | Environmental Management for Sustainable Economics**

**6 | Efficient and Renewable Energy Supply with Minimized Consumption**

**7 | Committed Employees**

**8 | Sustainable Regional Development**

**9 | A Livable and Sustainable Society – Everywhere**

**10 | Constructive Dialog**



# 1. Sustainable Economics

SMA aims to secure its long-term economic success. Here, acting responsibly and in compliance with the law is the foundation of our economic success and part of our corporate culture. Good corporate administration entails observing these principles and is equally as important as complying with legal regulations and company policies.

## **Our sustainability claim:**

**At SMA, sustainable economics is firmly anchored throughout the entire value chain and all processes. We pursue a fair and honest business policy without bribes, granting undue advantages and any type of corruption.**

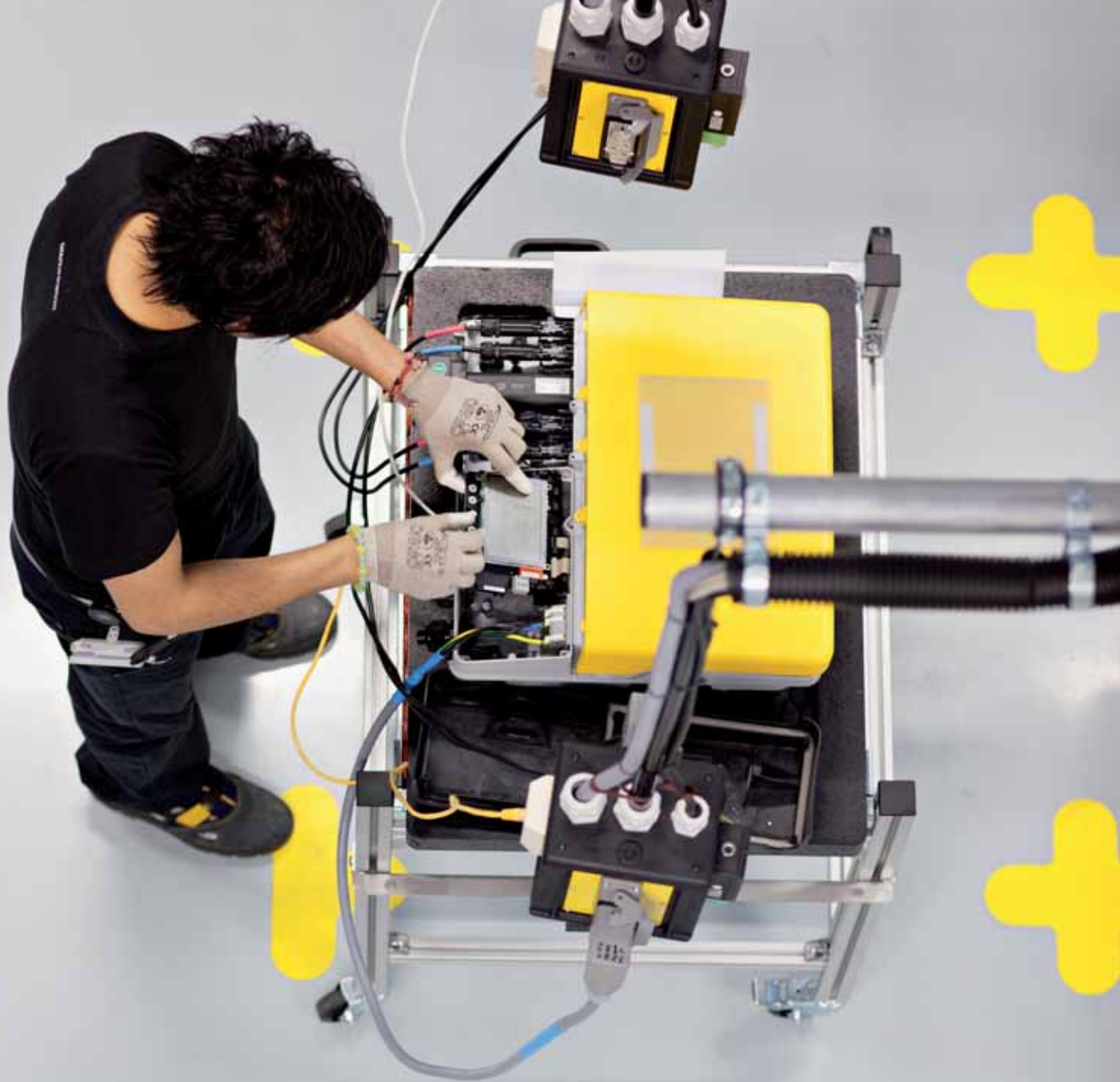


## 2. Innovative Products for a Sustainable Energy Supply

SMA products are sustainable in two respects: They enable a sustainable energy supply and, at low-costs throughout their service life.

**Our sustainability claim:**

**We offer innovative and low-cost products that remain highly efficient throughout their service life which in turn supports a sustainable energy supply.**



### 3. Production without Waste

When SMA produces its products, it consistently focuses on lean production principles and continuously improves the production processes to avoid waste in all respects.

**Our sustainability claim:**

**We employ a production concept that prevents waste and reduces the manufacturing requirements for materials, energy and personnel.**





## 4. Socially and Environmentally Responsible Supply Chain

Stable business relationships allow an intensive collaboration with suppliers as early as the product development phase and form the basis for achieving sustainability objectives together.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

**We design supply chains to ensure compliance with the recognized international social and environmental standards (according to the United Nations Global Compact) to make certain that our suppliers are aware of and support SMA's sustainability objectives.**



## 5. Environmental Management for Sustainable Economics

SMA consistently strives to ensure the environmental compatibility of its products as well as sustainable production. We achieve this objective through our effective environmental management. In addition, we encourage employees to act in an environmentally friendly manner.

**Our sustainability claim:**

**We design development, production and supply processes to minimize environmental pollution and in compliance with environmental legislation.**



ENERGY  
THAT  
CHANGES

## 6. Efficient and Renewable Energy Supply with Minimized Consumption

SMA consistently exploits the advantages of constructing new as well as modernizing existing buildings and production facilities to optimize energy consumption and use of renewable energy and thus minimizing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions. We take suitable measures to promote the energy-conscious behavior of our employees.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

**We develop and implement innovative concepts for the efficient use of energy and avoiding unnecessary energy consumption. These concepts are designed to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions and ensure that renewable energy resources are used with a high level of regional added value.**



## 7. Committed Employees

A corporate culture that promotes the participation and integration of employees into designing working conditions at all levels is one of the key factors that makes SMA's success possible. Continuously developing this corporate culture secures the sustainability of the company's success.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

**We offer safe and healthy jobs with fair wages and have developed a participation-based corporate culture that establishes optimum conditions for the sustainable commitment of the employees as well as their company loyalty.**





## 8. Sustainable Regional Development

By promoting education, science and the economy in a region, we are actively stimulating continued growth in the field of decentralized renewable energy. As a result, we are helping to create future-proof jobs as well as improve the region's development opportunities.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

**We promote growth in the Northern Hesse region in the field of decentralized renewable energy technologies through economic activities as well as networking and sponsoring.**



## 9. A Livable and Sustainable Society – Everywhere

SMA is active in political and professional networks with the aim of advancing the development of renewable energy and in particular, photovoltaics. Since the availability of energy is a key requirement for sustainable societal development, we promote the use of renewable energy in developing countries in conjunction with social projects.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

**We support the development of the energy supply towards decentralized, renewable energy technologies both at the national and international level. We accomplish this through our political commitment and in disadvantaged regions by promoting specific projects to illustrate the relationship between social development and the availability of energy.**



## 10. Constructive Dialog

SMA highly values its committed dialogue with its stakeholders. After all, knowing the interests and expectations provides the company with vast opportunities. SMA actively notifies its stakeholders about company news in a variety of ways.

### **Our sustainability claim:**

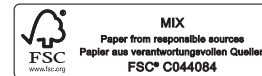
**We maintain an active and transparent information policy through constructive dialogue with stakeholders, which takes into consideration their various needs and expectations and ensures successful mediation in case there is a conflict of interests.**



## Summary: Energy that Changes

The subject of sustainability is inextricably linked with the success story of SMA. This is exactly why we want to deal with this subject even more intensively, systematically and transparently. Achieving sustainability in the economic, social and environmental sense remains one of the largest challenges of societal development. SMA can and aims to continue as a pioneer for this in the future.

The SMA sustainability mission statement is to be firmly anchored in the employee's and company's everyday activities through intensive communication. In the future, regular sustainability reports will examine and illustrate how this mission statement is being implemented and further developed.



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